

Deer Creek Newsletter



DEER CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

9201 W Columbine Dr, Littleton, CO 80128 Phone 303-982-3820 | Fax 303-982-3821 | Attendance: 303-982-3809

Page 1



A Word From the Principal

Helpful Links

Deer Creek Website

Jeffco Public Schools

Deer Creek PTO

Deer Creek Facebook

Advertising in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the school or district.



Dear DCMS Community,

I hope this message finds you refreshed after the winter break and ready to embark on the exciting journey to complete the school year. As we move into 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on our shared accomplishments and outline our focus areas for the months ahead.

Celebrating Our Achievements

This year, our students and staff have demonstrated remarkable dedication and resilience. Highlights include:

- Our teachers continue to be the beacon of hope and inspiration in Jeffco by opening their classrooms to educators from all over the district as examples of best first instruction.
- Our scholars continue to demonstrate impressive academic growth in all content areas.
- A continued commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive school environment, as evidenced by increased positive feedback from our students and families.

Looking Ahead

The new semester brings fresh opportunities to deepen learning and strengthen our community. Our focus will remain on:

- 1. **Academic Excellence**: Ensuring every student has access to rigorous, grade-level instruction supported by high-quality teaching practices.
- 2. **Belonging and Well-Being**: Continuing to build a culture where every student feels valued, connected, and inspired to achieve their best.
- 3. **Partnerships**: Engaging families and the wider community in meaningful ways to support student success.

Thank you for your unwavering support and collaboration. Together, we can ensure that DCMS remains a place where students thrive academically and socially. Let's make 2025 a year of growth, achievement, and joy for all!

Sincerely, Brandon Hall Principal Deer Creek Middle School

Last Call

Round 1 Enrollment for the 2025-26 School Year closes Friday January 17th!

It's hard to believe that we're already talking about the next school year. <u>ALL K-12 families will use EnrollJeffco to indicate where</u> their student(s) will be attending school for the next school year. You will use EnrollJeffco whether your student(s) is re-enrolling at the same school, changing schools, or just starting in Jeffco.

The K-12 enrollment window for Round One is open until Friday, January 17 for the 2025-26 school year. Please be sure to complete your enrollment for next year by January 17th.

- For current 6th and 7th graders, you will be directed to either confirm your ongoing enrollment at Deer Creek or submit an application to enroll at a different school.
- For current 8th graders, you will either confirm you will be attending your neighborhood high school or submit an application to enroll at a different high school.

You can visit the EnrollJeffco website for more information.

ENROLLMENT DATES FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

- January 17, 2025: K-12 Round 1 Enrollment closes
- January 23, 2025: Round 2 Enrollment for the 2024-25 school year opens
- January 28, 2025 (tentative date): K-12 Round 1 lottery offers will be sent to families ⇒ Families have three days to accept an offer

Winter Student - Parent - Teacher Conferences

Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Wednesday Feb 12 and Thursday Feb 13 from 4:30-8:30 pm

Our winter conferences are optional and are split into two types - team conferences and individual conferences.

Team conferences are the priority for winter conferences and are <u>by invitation only</u>. These conferences will already be scheduled with families and those times will be blocked out in the online scheduler for teachers involved.

Teachers will have a limited number of **5-minute** individual conference slots depending on their involvement in Team Conferences. All winter conferences are In-Person only.

Beginning Friday Jan 31 please visit the DCMS website to access the Signup Genius for scheduling individual conferences online. Because individual conference slots will be limited, you may need to prioritize which teachers are most important to schedule.

- Due to teachers having a limited number of individual appointments, slots may fill up quickly.
- Have a copy of your student's 2nd Trimester schedule at hand when you enter the Signup Genius for easy reference.



Mountaineers of the Month - November

Each of these students has demonstrated **PEAK** (Prepared, Engaged, Accountable, and Kind and Respectful) behavior and in doing so, is being recognized as our top Mountaineers for December.

6th Grade

Cayden Johnson

Cayden always participates fully, is always prepared, and he's kind and friendly.

Isaiah Brown

Isaiah is always smiling! He is a great student who works hard every day. He is super nice to everyone and he is an AMAZING musician!

7th grade

Dylan Fennimore

Dylan has shown perseverance to complete work with a positive attitude after breaking her arm. She always comes prepared, engages in the learning, holders herself accountable, and is kind to her peers.

Tyler Carwin

Tyler is super hard working, always respectful, always paying attention, positive leader

8th Grade

JJ Pitts

JJ initiates helping others learn, on task, hard worker, kind, positive. He's always engaged and very positive. He is always willing to volunteer for Mountain Guides and Information Night.

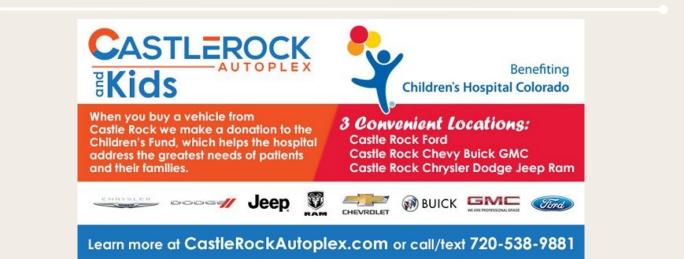
Mason Jussel

Mason has spearheaded the clothing drive this month. He weighed every bag and helped with every aspect. Additionally, he is alway kind and willing to lend an extra hand.





L to R: Tyler Carwin, Isaiah Brown, Cayden Johnson, Dylan Fennimore, Mason Jussel, JJ Pitts, Brandon Hall (Principal)



6th Grade Outdoor Lab Parent Information Meeting

Your student's 6th grade teachers will be holding our Outdoor Lab Parent Informational (parents only!) meeting on Wednesday, January 22nd from 6:00 to 7:00pm.

During this meeting, we will discuss important information about what Outdoor Lab is, what you and your child can expect, and other logistics.

Please make sure to get this on your calendar and we look forward to seeing you on the 22nd!

Deer Creek 6th Graders will be attending Outdoor Lab Tuesday, April 1 - Friday, April 4, 2025.

Thanks -Deer Creek 6th Grade Team



Create Handmade Cards for our Local Veterans

Pick-Up Art Supply Packets at Rox Arts Gallery or Create your Own Cards!

A community project for your school or local group to participate in.

Drop-off at our Love Letter mailbox (near ROX Arts Gallery) between December 26 - February 2

> ASPEN GROVE aspengrovecenter.com 7301 S Santa Fe Dr | Littleton, CO 80120



PRIVATE LESSONS GROUP CLASSES WORKSHOPS SEMINARS

SANDRA ELVENHOLL OWNER/TRAINER

ZENDOGGIELLC@GMAIL.COM

CALL TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION (303) 915-4306 ZENDOGGIELLC.COM

From the Dean

Hello Mountaineers Families:

While we are in a new calendar year, we continue with our expectations begun in August. There is a lot that will happen during the next five months inside and outside the classroom and we appreciate your continued partnership and support with guiding students to positive decision-making. When you have conversations with your student, I encourage you to help your student with reflecting on perspectives, awareness of the impact they have on others and others on them, and how difficult situations can be handled while still being respectful and kind. We all make mistakes, so helping your student understand the importance of, and how to take responsibility for their actions, repair harm, and moving forward with a lesson are important things to discuss as well. If you would like support with any of these discussion topics with your student, please reach out.

Here are some reminders:

Take care of Chromebooks! Under no circumstances should a student hit, punch, kick, throw or pull apart a Chromebook, whether their own or someone else's. The Chromebooks are provided to students to use, and we are seeing significant issues with students believing they are not responsible for the proper care of the device. Please talk with your student about how taking care of their Chromebook as they would their phone or personal device. Fines do happen with intentional destruction or misuse resulting in damage or destruction.

Students are required to have their student ID at lunch. A new ID can be purchased in the main office for \$5. Please ensure your student has their ID every day. The number of students without IDs is impacting the ability to get students through the lunch line efficiently. Students who continue to not have their ID may have school consequences in the second half of the year. Please talk to your student about being responsible at lunch time.

As always, if you have questions or need help with your student, please reach out to teachers, counselors or me. We are here to support your student!

Thank you, Julia Skillern Dean of Students Deer Creek Middle School

Yearbook News



The deadline is fast approaching to celebrate your

8th grader with a yearbook dedication.

The price is \$20 in January and then increases to \$25 until February 9. The FINAL deadline is February 9.

To access the DCMS ad templates, use the following access information:

- Go to https://www.yearbookordercenter.com
- Enter the School Code: 6131
- Choose: Buy a Yearbook Ad

You will pay for your ad with a debit/credit card on the website which will complete your order.

Winter MAP Test Scores Released

Student Insights is a secure online tool that makes it easy to access information about a student's district and state tests and their individual learning plans. It is a helpful way to check in on learning progress, review academic goals, and identify issues to talk about with teachers. The learning plans and tests included in Student Insights include CMAS, MAP Data, ACCESS for ELLS, READ Plans, and ALPs. Winter MAP data is now available in Student Insights.

Student Insights is confidential and may only be accessed by Jeffco students and their parents or guardians. Use the log-in username and password you use for other district tools, such as Infinite Campus Parent Portal or Student Portal. <u>Click here for instructions on how to access Student Insights.</u>

Student Council Clothing Drive

Thank you for all your generosity in donating clothing. We took 1,515.1 pounds of clothing to Jeffco Action Center, an average of **2.8 pounds per student**. We beat Summit Ridge in our donations and students will have a chance to switch Base Camps in January or early February. Also, a shoutout to the Southwest Home Depot for donating a few hours with a moving truck to transport the clothes to Jeffco Action Center.

Counseling News for 8th Graders

Chatfield Senior High School counselors will visit with all 8th graders here at Deer Creek on Tuesday February 11th to explain the 9th grade registration process and hand out registration paperwork.

The following week on Wednesday February 19th, high school counselors will return to meet with students one-on-one to answer questions, make sure our 8th graders have completed all steps of the registration process, and collect their signed registration forms.

If your student is planning on attending a different high school, please check out that school's counseling department website to find their registration information. For questions, please contact the high school counselors.

Thank you, Mrs. Jonas, 8th grade counselor



Inclusion Week Fundrasier

Please join us in celebrating our Significant Support Needs (SSN) students and Inclusion by purchasing an inclusion T-shirt.

Shirts will be on sale from January 21-31st for \$10 each.

All profits go directly to the SSN program to fund life-skills community outings. All shirts will be distributed at the beginning of March and are encouraged to be worn on March 12th during spirit week.

Ordering Information will be posted on the Deer Creek Middle School website soon. <u>https://deercreek.jeffcopublicschools.org/</u>

Thanks, Rachael Stevens Significant Support Needs Teacher Deer Creek Middle School voicemail: 303-982-3811

Panorama Student Survey

Deer Creek students will be taking the Panorama Jeffco Listens Student Engagement Survey in January. For more information, please click here.

Parent Book Study: "The Anxious Generation"

At Deer Creek, we are committed to supporting the well-being and development of our students. Partnering with families is foundational to this vision. We know that guiding children though middle school is hard, and technology doesn't always make it easier. To better understand and address these challenges, Mrs. Walz, Mrs. Vargo and Mrs. Zanetti are excited to invite you to participate in an engaging and enlightening book study on "The Anxious Generation" by Jonathan Haidt. "The Anxious Generation" explores the growing trend of anxiety among today's youth and offers insights into the factors contributing to this phenomenon. Through a blend of research, real-life stories, and practical advice, the book sheds light on how we can support our children.

We intend for this to be an opportunity to discuss shared experiences and challenges when it comes to parenting in the digital age, reflect on the information given in the book, and connect with other families.

We will meet at Deer Creek from 6:00 - 7:30 pm on January 14, 2025. Please join us for our final meeting as we discuss parts three and four. You are welcome to jump in if you have not attended earlier in the fall.

Please fill out this interest form to receive more communication about this book study.

DCMS will not be providing the book. You may purchase one on Amazon, Target, Barnes & Noble, Audible, or wherever you prefer to purchase books. The audiobook is currently free with a Spotify Premium subscription.

Please reach out to Mrs. Vargo or Mrs. Zanetti with questions. <u>monica.vargo@jeffco.k12.co.us</u> <u>karrie.zanetti@jeffco.k12.co.us</u>

Deer Creek Spring 2025 Chess Club

Chess Club resumes on Monday January 27th. Open to Grades 6-8.. All students are welcome - Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced Chess Players. For more information and to register, please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Deer Creek Middle School PTO News

We hope that everyone had a joyous and restful holiday season, and wishing you a wonderful year ahead! Please join us at our next PTO meeting on **Monday, January 13th, at 6-7pm** in the DCMS library.

Appreciating staff throughout the holiday season!

Through the amazing generosity of our DCMS families and a supportive local community, we were able to shower every staff member with appreciation throughout the holiday season. A HUGE thank you to all of the DCMS families and local businesses who donated gift cards, other items, and/or time to support these staff appreciation efforts during the holiday season!

Pie & Cider Bar

Before Thanksgiving, the PTO hosted a Pie & Cider Bar for staff, with hot cider, mini pies, and muffins on a chilly Fall day.

Holiday Gifts & Luncheon

In December, the PTO hosted a staff holiday luncheon, where each staff member was gifted a stocking with gift cards and chocolates. Additionally, several gift packages donated from the local community were raffled off to staff members, including tickets to performing arts





DEER CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Stock the Snack Shack!

The Snack Shack has been a hit among teachers and staff, and 7th grade families are continuing to support the Shack for Trimester 2!

GET COOKING

7th grade families, please consider making a donation to keep fueling the amazing staff. You can sign up here to donate throughout Trimester 2: 7th grade Snack Shack Sign Up

Deer Creek Middle School PTO News, continued...



Milk Caps for Mooola

Milk Caps for Mooola is a program sponsored by Longmont Dairy that helps students earn money for their schools. Longmont Dairy milk caps are worth 5¢ each and are redeemable for cash!

How does the program work?

- 1. Drink Longmont Dairy products
- 2. (Eligible cap products include: Milk, Chocolate Milk, Strawberry Milk, Half & Half, Whipping Cream, Orange Juice, Lemonade, Raspberry Lemonade, and Classic and Cinnamon Eggnog.)
- 3. Save the bottle caps. Save as many as you can from your bottles, or collect them from your family and neighbors.
- 4. Bring your milk caps to school and put them into the collection box in the school office.

American Furniture

Up to 4% of your purchases support Deer Creek Middle School. Purchase online, at any store, or over the phone. During check out mention our **school code or ID: DCM60.**

Deer Creek Students accepted into the Jeffco Honor and Select Ensembles!

Congratulations to some of our incredible Deer Creek Musicians for being accepted into the Jeffco Honor and Select Ensembles! These students have worked very hard and will be performing at West Bowles church on Friday January 17th at 6:00pm (Band) and 7:30pm (Orchestra). Bravo to all!

8th Grade: Haile Schmidt, Kela Schmidt, Marlee Rounds, April Falin, Jackson Babcock, Jaxon Krische, Evan Van Rijssen, Tyler Bergsma

7th Grade: Allison Doan, Lauren Hace, Quinn Perkins, Morgan Kincaid, Kayden Runyan, Rj Kerfoot, Kallie Webb, Cory Falk, Morgan Alesch, Wyatt Schwentner, Alex Heivilin

6th Grade: Isaiah Brown, Natalie Norman, Finn Blakey, Owen Soule, Natalie Meyers, Sallie Castillo, Hezekiah Brinck, Callan Zarn

Sponsorship space in this newsletter is extremely affordable!

Reach parents in your local community and a significant portion of your investment goes back to the school! Want to sponsor this school? Please contact Rob Mangelson at <u>Rob@tscacolorado.com</u> or (720) 878-4107.



Middle School Sports - Winter/Spring 2025

Girls Basketball	Grades 6, 7, 8	\$155	Jan 8–Mar 12	Mon/Wed	4:20–5:50 p.m.
Boys Basketball	Grades 6, 7, 8	\$155	Jan 9–Mar 13	Tue/Thu	4:20–5:50 p.m.

There are still open spots on both girls and boys basketball teams. To register through Foothills Parks and Rec <u>click here</u> You may also register in person at:

- Lilley Gulch Recreation Center: 303-409-2500
- Ridge Recreation Center: 303-409-2333
- Peak Community & Wellness Center: 303-409-2200



A PLAY & ASPIRE & LEARN & SUCCEED &

DEER CREEK SPRING '25 CHESS CLUB

- 🖉 Lessons by 15-time CO. State Champions, National Masters,Sully and Griffin McConnell
- PALS students have won CO State Chess Championships every year since 2014.
- 2 Our kid-approved chess lessons are funny, friendly, and lots of FUN!
- 👤 Critical thinking: planning ahead, pattern recognition and problem solving

🖉 Character-building: sportsmanship, teamwork, and learning from mistakes

Monday afternoons from 4:10-5:10 pm

Dates:

Quarter 3: 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10 (no club-2/17) Quarter 4: 3/31, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5

Open to grades 6-8 We welcome all beginner, intermediate and advanced chess players!

What: Calling all budding Kings and Queens to Colorado's premier chess program! Our creative curriculum brings humor, stories, and "chessercizes" to help students apply lessons on and off the board. Chess education has been shown to help kids improve logic, math, and reading comprehension skills. Students calculate options and evaluate consequences, learning to overcome obstacles and practice visualization techniques to think ahead. Whether playing in our scholastic tourneys or with family and friends, kids love learning with PALS because we make chess FUN!

Tuition: Qtr 3: \$112 for 6 weeks and Qtr 4: \$112 for 6 weeks. Enroll at <u>www.palschess.com</u>, click on the chess clubs tab-school club registration-Deer Creek Middle School or <u>click this link to register</u>. Any questions please feel free to email <u>info@palschess.com</u> or call 720-504-8765

2024-2025 Third Trimester Honor Roll

Congratulations to all of our Deer Creek students who made Honor Roll in Trimester 1!

Students qualify for Honor Roll with a GPA of > 3.5 and Work Habits Grades of A or B in all classes.

* Denotes High Honor Roll - GPA of >3.75 and Work Habits Grades of A or B in all classes.

6th Grade

Bryce Beardsley Brooklynn Beich Peyton Bowman Isaiah Brown Noah Brown Emma Deal* Rhys Effertz Alyssa Gagnier Alice Gregory* Olivia Hashemi Kelsie Lee* Ryann Lenzmeier* Alexandra Lockhart Oliver Maj Shail Malik Alice Martin* Natalie Meyers Hannah Nesmith* Natalie Norman Madison Nyback Kaylee Phillips Benjamin Pultorak Stella Scott Mason Scott* Caetano Seoldo Hinman Kate Slankard Helena Smith Owen Soule Lyla Stark Gracynn Teel Madeline Tripp Brianna Uhrich Aeshoka Wanapat Callan Zarn

7th Grade

Morgan Alesch Kelsey Anderson* Evan Ayala* Chloe Bilyeu Austyn Black* Jacob Brown* Kaitlyn Carwin* Tyler Carwin* Mackenzie Cloutier* Dominik Czosnyka Elizabeth Devin* Cyanne Dewi Xuan-Nhi Doan Allison Doan Cory Falk Corran Frederiksen Salvatore Giarratano Lauren Hace* Neal Halladay Greyson Hatch Kieran Hobson Kinley Houle-Murphy Ryan Howes Eliot Howlett* Ruby Irvine Alexander Keltner* Rebecca Kiester Adelyn Krimmer* Edith Lowe Cassidy Macdonald Laura Martinson* LaRaeLynn Mowry James Myers Kayden Runyan Ransom Salaz Wyatt Schwentner* Sophia Villasenor Eckert* Lily Young



2024-2025 Third Trimester Honor Roll

Congratulations to all of our Deer Creek students who made Honor Roll in Trimester 1! Students qualify for Honor Roll with a GPA of > 3.5 and Work Habits Grades of A or B in all classes. * Denotes High Honor Roll - GPA of >3.75 and Work Habits Grades of A or B in all classes.



8th Grade

Gwendolyn Armes* Jackson Babcock Tyler Bergsma Gabriel Bowman* Mia Briceno Makenna Brown* Madison Burford Eily Carpenter* Ryane Castor* Isabella Cofaru* Nathaniel Cooper Jaelynn Delgado Dean Dewey* Beckham Dickson Avery Eversman* April Falin* Colton Falk* Landon Feddersen* Samuel Franzel Megan Glass* Ronan Graham Riya Hagan* Mason Haggenjos David Halladay Keira Harder* Grayson Harris* Andy He* Fiona Hill* Brayden Hoover Tracy Huang* Avery Ingalls* Mason Jussel Claire Knowles Brianne Kohler* Brielle Kosik Jaxon Krische* Killian Lee* Estella Lezama Kinley LiFari*

Amelia Lysenia* Isa Marchena* William Martin Josie Mattson* Grace McGowan* Gianna Murray* Cole Norman* Hannah Oakeson* Jacob Olson Allie Peters Cameron Rojahn* Marlee Rounds* Braylon Rutter

Halie Schmidt* Kela Schmidt* Emma Schulz* Thomas Sleight Bella Stebbins* Mason Weaver

Upcoming Events

January

	-
13	PTO Meeting 6:00 pm
13	DCMS PTO Spirit Night - Qdoba 4 pm - 8 pm (8246 W. Bowles Ave location)
14	Deer Creek Book Club - The Anxious Generation 6:00-7:30 pm
17	Round 1 Enrollment Closes
20	MLK Day - School Closed
21	SSN Students/Mentors to Remarkable Round Up - Denver Stock Show
22	6th Grade Parent/Guardian Outdoor Lab Information Meeting 6:00 pm
23	Round 2 Enrollment Opens
28	Round 1 Choice Enrollment offers sent to families.
31	Winter Conference Sign Up Opens

January 2025						
Sun	Мо	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2025

Sun	Мо	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

February

3	PTO Meeting 6:00 pm - Library
9	Winter Parent Student Teacher Conferences Sign Up Closes
11	8th Grade - Chatfield Counselors to Deer Creek- High School Registration
12	Winter Parent Student Teacher Conferences 4:30 - 8:30 pm
13	Winter Parent Student Teacher Conferences 4:30 - 8:30 pm
14	No School for Students - Staff Development Day
17	President's Day - School Closed
18	Winter Choir Concert 6:30 pm
19	Winter Instrumental Music Concert 6:30 pm
20	6th Grade Social - Flannel and Frost 6:00-7:30 PM
21	End of 2nd Trimester
21-28	Penny Wars (PTO Fundraiser)
24	Start of 3rd Trimester
27	Accountability Meeting 6:00 pm - Library





FUNDRAISER FOR

DEER CREEK MS PTO

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 4PM-8PM

8246 W BOWLES AVE LITTLETON, GO 80123

25% of sales donated

Order online with the digital coupon on this flyer, or show this flyer in restaurant. Also valid on Catering orders.



OR ENTER THIS COUPON CODE ONLINE QDOBAGIVES



000H controls to diversity 20X of product sales (acciding any tax, deliver), gift card partness and alcohol partness) and landship and in accordance with the agreement by our experiation. In order is merities a direction, your separation controls the internet assessment of 20X. This assessment is an impactive graphication and order for the fundation. URGMs intervent the optimal and the daration of 20XMs intervent to 20XMs inte